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WEX-4-716

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

15 MAR 1960

Acting Deputy Chief, TCM

Attn: John K. Waters

Operational

Kurt WESSLEY

REFERENCE: ISLA 1182, Enclosures 15 and 20

1. Your attention is directed to USAGE report P/01021, in which it is stated that OFFICER X regards Kurt WESSLEY as his best source of information on the satellite states, and P/01022, which states that OFFICER X attempts to protect WESSLEY by warning him against persons who are circulating reports that he (WESSLEY) has Soviet connections or who are otherwise trying to discredit him. WESSLEY's activities, as well as OFFICER X's interest in protecting WESSLEY, would seem to warrant further investigation in view of the fact that allegations regarding WESSLEY's contacts and activities are in part corroborated by MAV-1783 (see below). In addition, a statement on the cover sheet of MAV-1783 indicates that the information in that report is partially taken out by USAGE report P/01150 (not available here), which states that WESSLEY is under investigation for alleged Soviet agent activities.

2. The following traces on WESSLEY have been located in our files:

- a. Subject's political tendencies were reported as "doubtful". (FK 00017, Survey of Foreign Experts, June 1938).
- b. Kurt WESSLEY, born, Deggsee 14. WESSLEY formerly was an editor of the Südost Echo and subsequently worked for the Publikationsstelle South East, which was run by the SS. The head of Publikationsstelle was KALLERT, now interned by the British in Wolfberg, Styria. WESSLEY also was interned there by the British but was released. The Publikationsstelle was a Nazi sponsored research organization on South East affairs. Its main function was the printing of ethnological maps, down to the scale of 1 to 50,000, of the entire Balkans. WESSLEY has a Hungarian wife who is still living in Budapest. (MAVA-1791, 15 March 1940.)
- c. Subject was named by USAGE as an intelligence agent and journalist. (ISLA-1286, Sub-Amex C-12, 25 March 1960.)
- d. Dr. Kurt WESSLEY: born on 29 March 1904 in Linz; Austrian citizen; Roman Catholic; residing in Linz, Deggsee 14. Subject formerly was

cc: Wien

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an editor of the Wiener Volksbeobachter, he later joined the SS in which he advanced to the grade of Untersturmführer and became a close friend of KALTENBRUNNER.

At present subject works for the HARRY MAST BUREAU, Linz, Landstrasse, where the former editor of the Neue Presse, Franz MILLIK, is also employed. No details are as yet available on the activity of this bureau, but it is assumed to be the head office of an American counter intelligence service procuring economic information.

Subject's father-in-law, SCHMIDT, is a civil servant in the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture. Subject's wife, Susanna, was an agent of the AVG when MAST was still the Hungarian Minister of Interior. She travelled to Hungary about three months ago and often makes long distance calls to Budapest from the Kommandatura in Urfahr. Her husband, as a journalist concerned with economic matters, finds it easy to obtain detailed information on plants in Western Austria. He frequently travels to Salzburg and to the Tyrol.

In Kufstein, Tyrol, subject frequently visits a certain Dr. THALLER, the chief of the Communist Counter Intelligence Bureau in Kufstein, which is directly subordinate to the Central Committee of the KPÖ. Subject's expenditures are not commensurate with his official income. His wife bought Christmas presents in Linz valued at 25,000 schillings and stressed that this was only part of her shopping.

At present subject and his wife are staying in Bad Hall where they proceeded by taxi. Subject recently purchased a camera and is trying to photograph certain persons, but so far a scrutiny of the persons photographed by him does not permit any conclusions as to the field of his interests. It is suspected that while in Hall subject is conferring with Hungarian intelligence and KPÖ functionaries.

As a supplement to the above information, it recently was learned from confidential sources that subject had a conference with HAIDER, SCHULLER and other leading Upper Austrian Communists. The conference was held on 20 December 1949 at provincial headquarters of the Upper Austrian KPÖ. After this conference the participants called on the Soviet Kommandatura at Urfahr.

It is said that subject with Iver MAGY and one SCHUBACH is in charge of repatriating DP's and ethnic Germans living in Austria. (MAY-1753, 20 February - March 1950; CCG intercepts L/T 9550 and 9557.)

e. Dr. VESSELY, fam: contact of the intelligence organisation run by Dr. Wilhelm HOTTLE in Salzburg; is also a contact of Erich KERNMAYER, leader of the "Spinn", the intelligence net of the VdU. (MGLAG380, 29 Aug 1949.)

f. VESSELY-MATSON, fam: contact man for the intelligence organisation of Dr. Heinz STRAKKE; resident of Salzburg. (MAYA-4804, 29 February 1950.)

3. With reference to Paragraph 2d above, we note that Harry MAST was listed by URAGS as an intelligence agent who was in contact with VESSELY and OFFCRANEK. (MGLA 1286, Sub-Annex C-8, 23 March 1950.)

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